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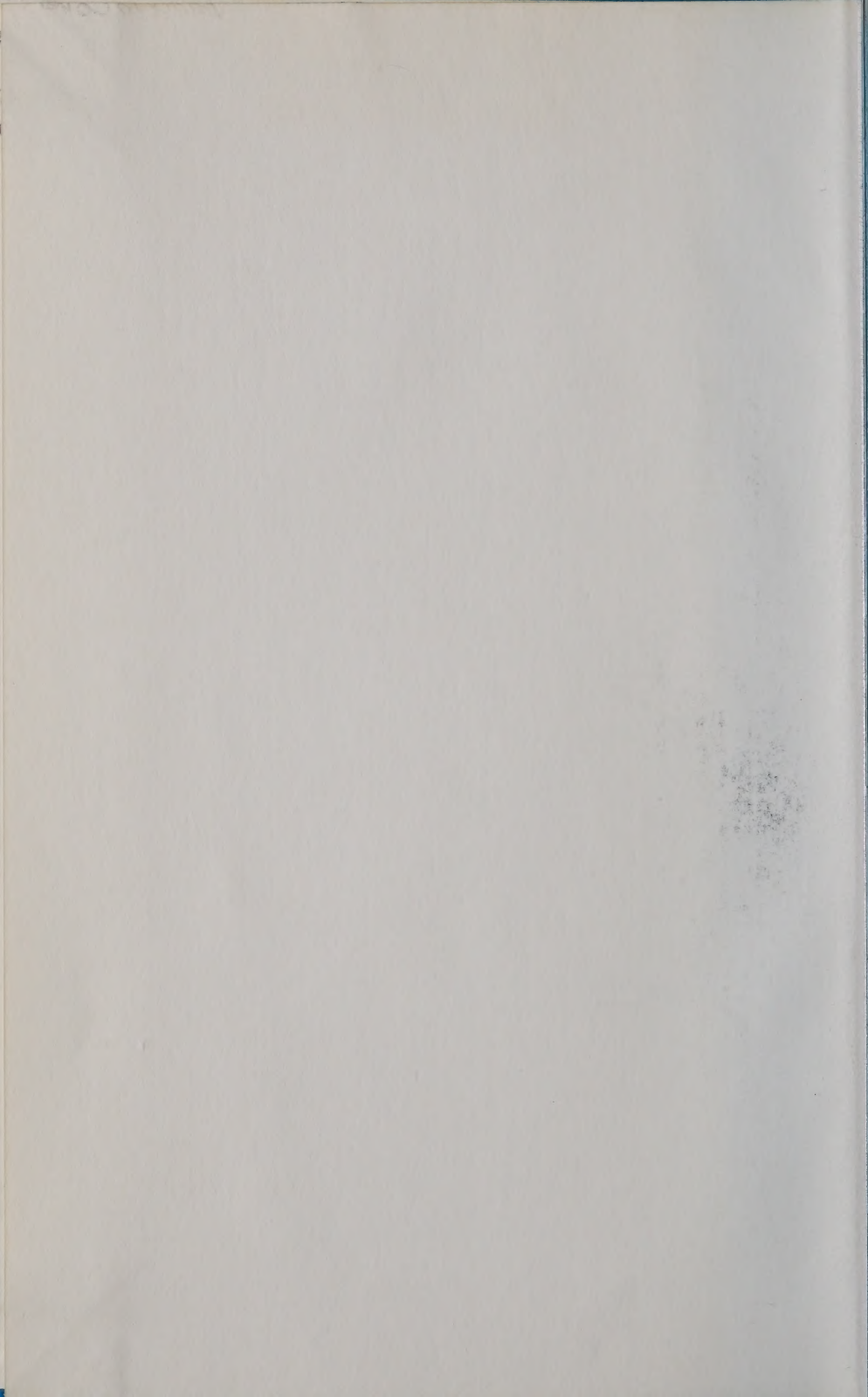
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*A Review  
of the Life and Times  
of the  
Hudson Methodist  
Church*

HUDSON, WISCONSIN

1847 - 1951





# A REVIEW OF THE LIFE AND TIMES

of the

## Hudson Methodist Church

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by

*Wis. 1847-1951*

Grace Wilcox, Lois Wilcox and Rosamond Van Horn

cover by

Rosamond VanHorn

assisted by a History Committee:

Rev. A. Lloyd Asp, Mrs. J. W. Burkholder, Mrs. N. O. Varnum,  
Mrs. F. R. Coit, Miss Myra Jones  
and friends and neighbors

Mr. and Mrs. Eddy Ammah Harding, Willis Miller, columnist of  
Hudson Star Observer, Miss Lucille Menkey, former librarian,  
Miss Helen Hosford, Hudson librarian, Miss Lucile Kane, manu-  
script division, Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, Mrs. Carl  
Lovett, Mrs. Charles Dowling, Mrs. George Bahneman, Harry  
Bohrer and many others.

Typists

Miss Patricia VanHorn and Mrs. Harry Bohrer

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## Preface

Preface of Part I as given before the reading of the Early History at the 75th Anniversary Fete.

While we read this story together, let's think of all the people who have come to this old church.

This church was built in 1856. It was remodeled and improved in 1875.

Young soldiers in blue uniforms left this church to go to the Civil War.

Think of all the dear babies who have been baptised here. Think of the happy brides and grooms who have come to this altar to give their vow of "forsaking all others".

Think of the anxious, hard working mothers and fathers who have prayed here that their children might love the Lord.

And think of the romantic clothes that some of these people wore, shiny, black, Sunday best broadcloth contrasting oddly with a forest of whiskers on the gentlemen; Hoop skirts and shawls and bonnets and bustles and basques on the ladies.

Think of all the friendly people who have come to find communion with God in this gracious room!

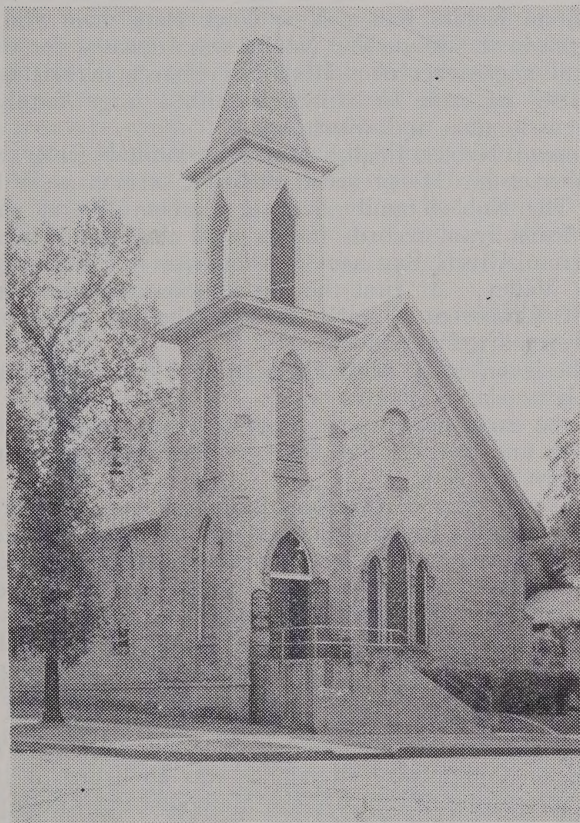


## Dedication

We dedicate this history to the pioneers of 1856 who dared to build a church, and who had a vision of great things to come for the sawmill and steamboat town on the St. Croix.



2008969



Hudson Methodist Church

Gift R - aug 8 - 1978

## PART I. 1847 - 1900

One hundred and four years ago Methodism officially began in Hudson. In 1847 the Reverend Lemuel Nobles preached the first sermon.

The Old Settlers' Obituaries has this to say about Mr. Nobles.

"Lemuel Nobles was a New York state man who emigrated to Michigan in the 30's. Mr. Nobles was educated for the ministry and became a preacher in a Methodist Church in Michigan.

In 1847 he came to Stillwater with a large family, most of whom grew to man and womanhood.

Reverend Nobles finally located at Willow River, now Hudson in Wisconsin. He preached the first sermon at Willow River in 1847. The Nobles family lived in Hudson several years." <sup>1</sup>

We learn from records in St. Paul that the Wisconsin Conference from Green Bay sent missionaries to Minnesota and the St. Croix Valley. At first the missionaries visited isolated cabins on the St. Croix but as early as 1848 there is record of a class having been started at Hudson.

A thesis on early Methodism in the Historical Building, St. Paul explains classes in this way.

"In the early days every Methodist was expected to be connected with and attend some class. The classes were usually not over a dozen people.

It was the duty of the class leader to see each person in his class at least once a week to inquire into the state of his soul and to advise, reprove, comfort, or exhort as occasion required." <sup>2</sup>

One of the regular questions at the Leaders Meetings was "Do any willfully and repeatedly neglect to attend class?" <sup>3</sup> At the Leaders meeting of Sept. 1861, two people had willfully and repeatedly neglected and it was voted that they be brought to trial for neglect of duty. We shall come back to these trials later and show how one of them almost destroyed this church.

We know that during the late 50's the Hudson Church had four classes. Compulsory attendance was abolished in 1864.

It is interesting to compare the Methodist membership of towns in this area as set down by the Rev. Chauncey Hobart.

"In 1855 the membership at St. Paul was 70 Methodists, at Marine 22, Stillwater 10, Red Wing 84, Minneapolis 48, and Hudson 50." <sup>4</sup>

This church was built in the summer of 1856 by Ammah Andrews, grandfather of Eddy Ammah Harding of Hudson.

The entry for carpenter work on the church can be seen in the old account book of Comstock and Andrews in the Historical Building in St. Paul.

Sept. 1856—Methodist Episcopal Church,

Debtor to Work ..... \$1710

Originally the church had a Wren spire. According to pioneer



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member Mrs. Arey, the Methodist Church steeple was the tallest in town. She was speaking of the year 1857. In August of that year disaster struck. The steeple was blown over in a windstorm.

In an old Baptist Record book the church clerk writes, "On the Sabbath afternoon that Mr. Gibson preached the farewell sermon the Methodists kindly offered the use of their new church building, just nearing completion, for that service, it being the largest assembly room in town. Mr. Gibson said he preferred this last meeting should be where he had labored, consequently our little church was crowded so that there was hardly standing room. During the service a severe wind, rain, and hail storm came up. Reverend Gossard of the Methodist Episcopal Church went out into the storm and soon came back with a large Bible held as much under his coat as he could wrap it. As soon as he could be heard he said that the steeple of their church had fallen and crushed the roof and that nearly every pew was broken. He had crawled over the wreckage to rescue the Bible.

"I remember during the worst of the storm while the men were trying to hold the Baptist Church windows from being blown in, Mrs. Cowles, commenced singing. Others joined her, and above the storm rose the words.

"Should earth against my soul engage  
And fiery darts be hurled,  
Then I can smile at Satan's rage  
And face a frowning world.  
Let cares like a wild deluge come,  
And storms of sorrow fall.  
May I but safely reach my home,  
My God, my Heaven, my all." <sup>6</sup>

The Methodist Church had to be repaired and consequently debts mounted.

The financial situation of the church has always been a little difficult, but affairs were never so desperate as on the dark day in March 1859 when at a meeting of the male members it was moved and seconded to sell the church to satisfy the debts against it. The motion lost. Then it was moved and carried that a committee solicit subscriptions in the shape of notes toward liquidating the debt. A debt was heavy to carry those days because of the crushing burden of interest. We find that in 2 years and 2 months the interest on \$3086. was \$2053.

The church was built in the boom year 1856. Along came the panic of 1857 plus the storm. The Church owed \$5139. in 1859.

These sturdy pioneers held fast. In August 1863 we find the statement

"The Church was not sold. We still hold it and propose to continue to hold it forever by God's help. We have reduced the debt to \$785.75". <sup>7</sup>

The heating, lighting and care of the church presented prob-



lems important enough to be recorded in the Stewards and Leaders book.

In May 1859 "the taking care of the church (that is sweeping, dusting, trimming, lighting, and cleaning lamps, building fires on all occasions when such are needed and keeping the House in good order, was let to G. L. Dodge for the term of one year for which services he is to be paid the sum of \$1.50 per week with 50 percent kept back until winter to insure faithful service." <sup>3</sup>

We find the question written in Dec. 1865, "How shall we keep the stove pipe from smoking?" <sup>7</sup>

The Star and Times for September 1875 announces Church services and Sunday School; the church to be warmed from the stove in the back room. <sup>8</sup>

An appealing story of giving comes to light in the very first Leaders and Stewards Book. At that time many of the pledges to the church were met by goods instead of money. We find mention of people giving butter, chickens and eggs.

There was a special notation made of one cash contribution because it represented such a sacrifice. A poor widow with three children gave one (1) Gold Dollar. <sup>3</sup>

Organizations of the Church in these early years were the Sunday School, the Men's Club, a Boy's Club, the Epworth League and the Woman's Society. It is interesting to note that the ladies organization was called "Womans' Society" in these early years.

There is a Sunday School report in the Stewards book of 1857.

"Dear Brethern: In submitting the following report I am much gratified to state that our Sabbath School which meets every Sabbath morning at 9 A. M. is in prosperous and growing condition as the following table of statistics will show."

No. of officers and teachers—16

No. of scholars—100

Average attendance—100

No. of volumes in the Library—400

Sunday School teachers were needed then as urgently as now. We quote from a report of 1861—

"The school at Hudson is in a very prosperous condition. A few more teachers are very much needed, and there ought to be a deeper interest in the school among the adult members of the Church." <sup>7</sup>

A dramatic preacher wrote, "We need more teachers. We raise the Macedonian cry. Come over and help us!" <sup>7</sup>

Between 1861 and 1864 there were two Methodist Churches in Hudson. Earlier in this story, we mentioned church trials and examinations of character. One of the regular leaders meeting questions was "Are there any who have walked disorderly and refused to be reproved?" That has a ghostly sound hasn't it? At a Church Trial in 1861, a member was expelled for non-payment

of a personal debt. In sympathy with him about twenty-eight members withdrew and organized a second Methodist Church which the Conference reports call "The Second Charge." <sup>7</sup>

It must have been the younger people who left because they took the children with them. The flourishing Sunday School of 100 was reduced to 15.

In contrast to the division of the Methodists, at this time the Congregationalists united with the Baptists and the Hudson City Times published an editorial admonishing the Methodists for dividing.

We quote an effective paragraph from the Hudson City Times of 1863 as copied in the Conference records.

"We cannot help suggesting to our Methodist friends that a slight degree of consistency between profession and practice should be aimed at. The road To Heaven has no forks." <sup>7</sup>

The members of the Second Charge eventually came back into the fold and were reinstated around 1864-5.

It is curious to note that this schism began and ended with the Civil War.

For a short time the building of the Second Charge was rented to the United Baptists. Then the building was sold for \$600. and the lot conveyed to Mrs. Susan Staples.

In 1866 Rev. J. S. Akers wrote,

"Peace is within our palaces and prosperity within our borders." <sup>7</sup>

In 1871 Reverend H. Stone Richardson wrote,

"When I came here in 1868 the old bell in the church was broken and was cast iron at that. We were able with the help of the membership and congregation and \$300 secured to us through J. C. Fowler Jr. of New York to purchase a new bell costing all told about \$700. Through the membership and congregation raised money to purchase an organ \$160.

"We have also made necessary repairs by removing the old desk and building a new desk platform and Altar rail together with the removal of the chimneys and the building of an O."

What was an O? Could it have been the circular part in front?

Activities in the Church were many and well attended. Other churches joined together with this church in the St. Croix Bible Society.

Camp meetings were held. The Star and Times reports a camp meeting at Richmond in 1871 of a week's duration, 2500 people having attended. "The Methodist Choir of Hudson furnished most excellent music." <sup>8</sup>

In August 1874 the Star and Times announces a Camp Meeting to be held at Knapp's Station W.W.R.R. and adds—"No boarding tent but meals can be had at the station." <sup>8</sup>

From the Star and Times and the records of the Stewards and Leaders, we learn of concerts given by the choir—one in July

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1871, 3 concerts given during the week, Professor Thomas Hughes, choir director. Vocal soloists were Mrs. Morrow, Mr. Hughes, Miss Laura Gones and others.—Instrumental solos by J. O. Fowler, Mrs. White, Jones and others. The concert consisted of selections from Frevel and Italian Operas. To give greater weight and brilliance a piano and organ were both used. The organ was a celebrated George Wood and Co. organ sold by W. W. Warner, grandfather of Mrs. C. H. Lovett.

Other activities were ice cream socials—some given on the lawn and porch of C. C. Dieltz, the house now occupied by Dr. and Mrs. Newton.

There were Pound Festivals, one in Dec. 1875.

"The tables were set out in good taste. Major Harding took charge of the selling. Opening of packages created considerable merriment—Net receipts \$70." <sup>3</sup>

In April 1875 there was a lively spelling match. Honorable John Comstock acted as umpire. Colonel Bashford put out the words. W. H. Clapp (an uncle of Miss Myra Jones) was the champion. The church cleared \$33. <sup>8</sup>

A Christmas program in 1874 reports three large beautiful evergreen trees trimmed, the appearance of Santa Claus, exchange of gifts and music by the band. <sup>8</sup>

There were temperance lectures with many people joining "The Good Templars."

There were suppers put on by the Men's Club.

We read too of chartered boat rides on the St. Croix, of picnics at Crowe's Landing, and of ferry excursions across the river.

The Star and Times gives us a definite record of the rebuilding of the Church in 1875.

We quote the Hudson Star and Times of September 10, 1875.

*M. E. Church to be Dedicated Next Sunday*

*A Large and Beautiful Edifice.*

The Star & Times takes great pleasure in announcing that the new M. E. Church has so nearly approached completion that it is to be formally dedicated on Sunday next. The work of rebuilding the church has been a vast one, nearly, if not quite equal to the erection of an entirely new building. It has been raised, lengthened, a new roof put on, veneered with brick, newly painted and frescoed inside, re-seated, cushioned and carpeted. It is in fact, a new structure and is large, well proportioned, and finely finished and furnished, the most expensive, commodious and attractive church edifice in the St. Croix Valley.

To Rev. J. D. Tull, is mainly due the credit for the building the church.



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On next Sunday at 10:00 o'clock A. M. dedicatory services will be held. It is expected that several eminent clergymen from abroad will be present to assist in the exercises.

No services will be held in the other churches, in order that all may attend these dedicatory services. Afterward the Star and Times reports.

"The dedicatory services were very largely attended both morning and evening. The Reverend M. Chaffee of Minneapolis preached in the morning and Rev. Mooney of Richmond in the evening. The choir furnished most excellent music, the donations were numerous and liberal, nearly \$3000, enough to pay off the indebtedness." <sup>8</sup>

In 1884 Pastor M. Benson reported that he had added an appointment to be known as "Houlton" located opposite of Stillwater. Dr. J. W. Wingender conducted the services of this charge. Mrs. Carrie Goss and Miss Ella Richardson led the classes. In 1935 the Houlton property was sold to Mr. Olaf Windahl.

The period from 1875 on was graced with some fine people who worked earnestly for the church. Many of these friends who have passed on remind us of the song title "Dear Hearts and Gentle People".

They were ancestors of whom a church congregation might well be proud. Mr. A. J. Goss, banker was a trustee. His wife, the beloved and generous Mrs. Goss who lived to be 101 years old is a tradition to live up to in this Church.

Imagine Mrs. Goss in the 1860's, an eager young matron actively taking part in the Margaret Fuller Society, an organization to improve the status of women. Surely this must have been an intellectual group.

The question to be debated at one meeting was this "In order to do moral justice to woman is an entire renovation of society needed. And if so, what can we do individually to promote it?" <sup>9</sup>

In later years Miss Lucille Menkey, former librarian, recalls that Mrs. Goss often wore a lapis lazuli pin. This is one of the gems mentioned in the Bible. The stone is sometimes blue, sometimes gray. Mrs. Goss' was gray and Miss Menkey says it was unusually becoming to this beautiful and venerable woman.

Miss Charlotte Olds joined the church at the age of twelve when Rev. Wheeler was pastor—that would be between 1882 and 1884. She was Sunday School Supt. for some time and taught Sunday School for many years, but her most outstanding achievement was in her personal life. This woman who never married, singlehandedly raised three orphan children to useful and well respected man and womanhood.

Miss Ella Richardson, well-loved teacher influenced and uplifted the character of scores of Hudson people living today. Miss

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Richardson taught children every day in the week at the public school. Then she rose bright and early on Sunday morning to teach again in Sunday School.

Mr. Rickard, prayer leader who was often first to give testimonials was the grandfather of James Frear, congressman from this district for many years.

Mr. William Batten, father of Mr. Sidney Batten, was an enthusiastic worker.

Mr. Merton Herrick whose daughter, Mary Herrick Beebe lives in New Richmond was Supt. of the Sunday school for 16 years.

Mr. P. Q. Boyden, trustee was a druggist who owned the house now occupied by Mrs. Leo Brooker.

Mr. E. W. Gridley, faithful Church worker lived where the W. G. Heitings do now.

Mr. J. B. Jones, father of Miss Myra Jones, was the sheriff. He held other county offices at various times. His name appears often on the church records.

Mr. A. A. Kelly, trustee was also sheriff at another time. He owned the house now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Dowling.

Mrs. Frank Coit's father and mother were earnest church workers. Mrs. Coit's father's name was Lloyd Garrison Greene. He was a miller who owned what was popularly known as Greene's Mills. Mr. Greene himself had named the place Paradise Mills because it was so beautiful out there.

Dr. J. W. Wingender, Hudson dentist and his wife, Mrs. Wingender, were the grandfather and grandmother of Mr. Wendell Petersen.

Miss Margaret Goodrich's parents owned a farm. They were loyal workers for Methodism.

James H. Walker, former postmaster, and his wife were active members.

Mr. John Bohrer, pioneer member and father of Mr. Harry Bohrer, sang a solo in the church on the Sunday of his 86th birthday. On that occasion Reverend Marks introduced him as the Grandfather of the Choir. Mr. Bohrer was an admirable man who dearly loved his church. When he got to be 81, Mr. Bohrer wrote a little history of his life that deserves publishing. In this story he tells of the life of the church.

He tells how one minister told the congregation: "Just because my name is Campbell doesn't mean that I expect to carry all the load."

In speaking of another pastor Mr. Bohrer said, "His presence was like a benediction." <sup>10</sup>

Because the wording amuses us and reminds us that the church is again newly decorated and repaired, we would like to quote the

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Hudson Star and Times of 1876 by a correspondent of the River Falls Press who had apparently visited here. This journalist of another day says;

"The number and beauty of Hudson's Churches are models of architecture exteriorly, and tasty and comfortable interiorly".<sup>8</sup>

On Sunday, Sept. 24th, 1950 the 75th anniversary of the church was held. It had been assumed that the church was built in 1875 as marked in bricks on the front. However, in delving into the old records it was found that the original church was really built in 1856, and enlarged and faced with brick in 1875. The Hudson Star Observer for Sept. 28, 1950 gives a review of the anniversary celebration. We quote:

*Large Attendance Marks 75th Anniversary Fete  
Of Methodist Church*

Large attendance at all of the services marked the 75th anniversary festival of the Hudson Methodist Church held last Sunday. Dr. George Mecklenberg, Minneapolis radio pastor and lecturer, spoke on "The Church Today" and his experiences in Europe at the 10:30 o'clock morning service, which was followed by a dinner in the church parlors at noon.

The Homecoming Service was held at the church at 2:30 p. m., at which Mrs. Charles Dowling gave a lay address on "What This Church Has Meant and Means," and M. F. Poulton spoke on "This Church, Today and Tomorrow." The history of the church was presented by Mrs. H. F. VanHorn. Greetings from former and neighboring pastors were given by Rev. O. F. Voll of Mound, Minn., a former pastor; Rev. Mr. Harris of River Falls, former district superintendent; Rev. Dr. Fred J. Jordan of Eau Claire, district superintendent; Rev. Dr. E. W. Wright of the Hudson Presbyterian Church, who brought greetings from the Hudson Ministerial Ass'n. Letters and greetings were read from Rev. John Fisher of California, and Rev. Harry Evans of Spring Valley, Minn., Rev. Agema of Lake City, Minn., Rev. Douglas Marks of Medford, Wis., all former pastors; Rev. Harvey Anderson of Hammond and Mr. and Mrs. Harold Gifford of Caledonia, Minn.

The Vesper Consecration Service was held on Birkmose Park, overlooking the St. Croix, at 5:15 p. m., and at this service, Dr. Jordan preached on "The Church of the Future."

## **Preface to Part II**

We hesitated to write a contemporary history but there was a request for it and we have done our best. From a huge mass of written material we have extracted what we thought would be of most interest to the greatest number of people. We have tried



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to avoid too many statistics and have hoped, instead, to give this story the flavor of human interest. There is no doubt that we have often failed to give credit where credit was due. There have been many things done for the church of which there is no record. Especially on the Memorial Gifts we wish we could be sure that we had a definite list of every gift, but that was impossible.

Please bear with us and be tolerant toward our shortcomings, and for our sins of omission do, please do, forgive us!

## **PART II 1900 - 1951**

### **Warming the Church**

The struggle with stoves and stovepipes was finally ended. In 1886 a pipeless furnace was installed at a cost of 63.40. How the chilled little Sunday School boys and girls loved to stand over that ornamental ironwork register. They looked with awe and wonder down at the glowing inferno below and luxuriated in the warm waves of hot air that enveloped them like summer. If you were a little girl of the early nineteen hundreds, didn't you love to stand on the register? The gentle air from the furnace flared out your little wool pleated skirt and gave it all the grace of a flower.

The old furnace was first installed on the west end of the church building and later changed to the center of the auditorium.

Heating is always a problem in a climate where the temperature goes down near "rock bottom" occasionally. Heating worries have continued and the price of furnaces has gone up!

For the years around 1900 there is considerable mention of the use of cordwood in the furnace. People often brought loads of cordwood as their pledge to the church.

The dining room and kitchen used to be heated by a separate furnace.

We cannot tell from the records how many furnaces there have been in the church, probably four altogether, but there is constant mention of "repairs to furnace".

In 1923 a new chimney was built. Bricks were sold at 10c apiece to finance this project. \$236.75 was realized from this sale and Dr. J. Wingender was appointed to see that the contractor connected the furnace to the chimney correctly.<sup>17</sup>

There was a great improvement in the heating system made in 1938 at a cost of \$750.00.

Rev. Marks writes of this project in the Pastor's Record Book. He says:

"The installation approved consists of new upper and lower fire pots, re-cementing the entire furnace, an automatic stoker, a larger and improved blower with minor modifications in the circulating system and automatic temperature controls \$750."

Reverend Marks hit upon a happy way to finance at least a part of this large bill. It was announced that Jehoash Day was

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to be held and a certain Sunday was set for the special contribution which was to be made toward the house of the Lord even as the story in II Kings Chapter 12, verses 4 and 5

"And Jehoash said to the priests, "All the money of the dedicated things that is brought into the house of the Lord, even the money of everyone that passeth the account, the money that every man is set at, and all the money that cometh into any man's heart to bring into the house of the Lord,

Let the priests take it to them, every man of his acquaintance: and let them repair the breaches of the house, wheresoever any breach shall be found."

Jehoash Day netted \$202.30 toward the repairing the "breaches of the House".

## **Fire!**

There was a day in late December 1946 just before New Year's Eve when the church was warmed a little too much! Judge Robert Varnum was driving by. He happened to look up and saw flames issuing from the east wall of the church. Judge Varnum immediately called the Fire Department which arrived in the nick of time to prevent really serious damage.

There was to have been a New Year's Eve service that evening. At first it was thought that the service would have to be cancelled but people decided to hold it anyway and quite a few members were there in spite of the smoke and water and gave thanks that the House of the Lord still stood.

## **Building and Repairing**

As early as 1892 we find some mention in the record of a discussion about an annex. Nothing was done about it, however. Harry Bohrer says that the original kitchen and dining room were built in 1904 and the records establish that fact.

The original annex proved too small and in 1916 it was enlarged 17 feet to the west and 6 feet to the east. The enlarging cost a great deal more than the original estimate. By the time the building was completed the church was \$1500 in debt, according to Mr. Harry Bohrer who was Church treasurer at that time. The financial situation required drastic action.

District Superintendent J. W. Irish came for the week end. He spent Saturday night with Mr. and Mrs. John Bohrer. Next morning Rev. Irish told Harry that he had spent the night figuring out a money raising plan.

Oswald J. Solheim was hastily contacted and asked to draw a picture of the church. The picture was divided into blocks symbolizing the indebtedness of the church and during the morning service Rev. Irish auctioned off these blocks to the congregation.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Engebretson were a newly married couple at that time. She says that her young husband bought a block and she tells a pleasant story of the sale.

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Mrs. Engebretson says that both Mr. John and Harry Bohrer bought generously early in the sale and later on Harry's mother bought a block. The District Superintendent said, "That's just fine, Mrs. Bohrer, that proves that you can do somethings beside cook."

Probably not a great deal was changed in the Annex from then on until 1943 and 1944 when it was improved as described in the section under "The Carpenters".

There is an item in The Trustee's Record Book which reads thus:

1901: Funds subscribed for the purpose of wiring parsonage. "Expect it to cost \$12. <sup>17</sup>

The Methodist Church installed its first electric chandeliers in 1906 at a cost of \$72. <sup>17</sup>

These were undoubtedly used until the Bohrer memorial lights and fixtures were installed in 1935.

In February 1916, hardwood flooring was laid in the Auditorium.

The Muncy family gave the cushions for the pews.

The Green Cottage south of the church given by Ella Richardson was sold in 1940 and the lot was retained by the church.

In 1946 new front doors were purchased and put in. A lock for the doors was given to the church by the "Star Circle" of the Woman's Society of Christian Service. <sup>17</sup>

The pulpit light was given by another circle.

In 1950 the church steeple was partially dismantled and repaired and a cross was added.

The interior of the church was redecorated at that time.

## **The Carpenters**

All buildings, even churches, are constantly in need of upkeep and repair. If it had not been for the hard toil of a devoted group of Christian men the Hudson Methodist Church would probably be in ruins. These men have shingled the roof, put in braces and heavy timbers, dug sewers, sanded floors, plastered, put on sheet rock and wallboard, varnished and painted and done all the heavy unpleasant work that must be accompanied to keep an old building going.

In addition to routine repair the men of the church have done some big jobs of building and remodeling. In 1943 and '44 the men modernized the dining room and kitchen. In the dining room they covered the original plaster walls and ceiling with wallboard, sanded and varnished the floors, and installed the memorial lights. In the kitchen they spent long hours in cabinet making and plumbing. Their work is much appreciated. The commodious cupboards and modern kitchen bases are a joy to all the dear ladies who volunteer for "K. P." duty.

We owe a sincere vote of thanks to all the men who have worked on the church at any time, but we would like to pay special



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tribute to those who rebuilt the kitchen and dining room in 1943-'44. At that time the men called themselves "The Push and Pull Club". These men were: Rev. John Agema, Harry Bohrer, Arthur Boody, Albert Briggs, John Bush, Lyle Cooper, Charles Dowling, Miner Egbert, Dale Gifford, Harold Gifford, W. S. Larson, S. K. Simonson, Albert Stevenson, Gilbert Tuttle, Lyle Udell, Robert Varnum, Earl Wilcox, Lyle Wilcox, Olaf Windahl, and Frank Wright.

## **The Discussion Club**

Reverend A. Lloyd Asp called at the home of Mrs. Olaf Windahl early in January, 1947. Mrs. Windahl was not at home but her son-in-law and daughter, Doctor and Mrs. Kenneth Brandt were there. During the call these three people started an idea. They decided that there was no group nor organization in the church of special interest to the younger adults and that something should be done about it.

A time was set to call all the younger adults of the church together, and later, Mrs. Olaf Windahl offered her home for the first meeting. There were sixty-two people present.

It was voted to call the new organization "The Discussion Club" and to get together once a month for a pot luck supper followed by Bible study and discussion and occasionally, a speaker.

The Discussion Club has held basket socials each year since it was organized. The club gave \$100 toward the new dining room chairs. They sponsored the appearance of the Hamline University Choir in Hudson in the spring of 1951. At present they are interested in better steps for the dining room.

Dr. Kenneth Brandt was the first president of the Discussion Club. He was followed by Mr. Wendell Petersen, Judge Robert Varnum, Mrs. M. F. Poulton, Mrs. David Wilcox and Mrs. L. F. Jaeger. Mr. Robert Bauer is the new president.

## **The Sunday School**

A Christian education program has been diligently carried out through the Sunday School. Many people have acted as teachers because they have believed that human character is the most substantial thing that we can help to build. The classes have varied from time to time with the shifts in membership, but in general, the Sunday School has tried to have a class for everybody from the Cradle Roll to the Adults.

Mrs. Lyle Wilcox recalls that the Sunday School Picnic used to be the great event of the summer for Methodist Sunday School children. She says that she and her playmates looked forward for weeks to this occasion and planned far ahead for the great day which was usually spent on the "Hill".

Rev. John Fisher was Pastor at the time and he and the teachers planned games and stunts. There was no playground equipment on the hill then, but Reverend Fisher carried a long rope that he threw over a stout oak limb. When a board seat was

added it make a swing. Perhaps the same rope doubled for a friendly "tug of war" before the crowd went home.

Mrs. Wilcox says that there were no buildings nor tables on the hill so long ago and the picnickers usually spread their white tablecloths on the green grass at the high place on the site of the present parking lot just above the hollow where the kitchen is now.

The baby buggies present at the picnic were an amusing feature Mrs. Wilcox remembers. She says that most of the families with babies had huge wicker baby carriages. The mothers walked up the rutted path to the top of the hill and the older children pushed the baby buggies. They earned their fun.

From the Sunday School Record for the Fall Quarter of 1920 we have obtained a list of teachers and officers.

Teachers: Dr. J. W. Wingender, Mrs. Carrie M. Goss, Miss Ella Richardson, Miss Margaret Goodrich, Mrs. Charles Dowling, Rev. John Fisher, Mrs. John Fisher, Mrs. Maude Ryan, Mr. Watts, Mrs. Charles Christopherson, Mrs. N. O. Varnum, Miss Grace McMaster (Mrs. Lyle Wilcox), Miss Marjorie Brewer, Miss Laura Brandenburg (Mrs. Geo. Bahneman).

Officers: Superintendent—M. S. Tracy; Assistant Superintendent, John Burkholder; Sec'y, Miss Edith Dowling; Treasurer, John Burkholder; Junior Superintendent, Miss Charlotte Olds; Primary Superintendent, Miss Jeanette Audette.

It is interesting to note the long number of years in office of two good Sunday School workers, Miss Edith Dowling was secretary for eleven years and Miss Myra Jones was secretary for fourteen years and treasurer for three years.

During the time that Dr. J. W. Wingender was superintendent a record was made each Sunday of the weather. It was reported as being pleasant, very pleasant, rainy, stormy or cold.

Harry Bohrer recalled his first Sunday school teacher in the year 1885, her name being Frances Wheeler, a niece of Carrie M. Goss. He always treasured his first Christmas gift from her, a book by the name of "The Dogberry Bunch".

From time to time various classes in the Sunday School have made gifts to the church. We would like to mention some of them. Mrs. J. T. Kneen's class gave the Church Bible which is still in use. Mrs. Dowling's class gave two sets of Christmas tree lights. Mrs. Otto Axt's class gave an American Flag, Mrs. Lauterbach's class gave a Christian Flag which Mrs. Lauterbach made. Mrs. J. E. Newton's class gave pictures, and the Sunday School, as a whole, gave the lamp on the new Hammond Organ.

In the Methodist Sunday School there is a pleasant story of love and sharing the best things of life.

For 36 years or all the time since they have been married, Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Dowling have regularly attended Sunday School and Church together. Most of that time they have held numerous offices in both the Church and Sunday School.

When one mentions the Sunday School of the time around 1928, people always exclaim, "Oh, that was when Mrs. Newton gave those plays!"

This was a series of one-act plays inspired and directed by Mrs. J. E. Newton. They were produced in the choir loft and many people still recall the "little theater" group with pleasure.

Mrs. John Bush says that she was the frivolous girl in one of these plays and that the serious minded leading man proposed to her (in the play) because he felt that she needed his protection and "steadying influence".

About this time Mrs. Newton organized the evening "Philathea Class" which met once a month for the benefit of young mothers who could not get to Sunday School. The class proved so interesting and successful that members of other churches joined also. The "Philathea Class" still prospers. Mrs. Newton is still the teacher and quite a number of charter members still attend.

The Sabbath comes every seven days and the position of Sunday School Superintendent requires a great deal of planning in order always to be prepared for next Sunday.

The superintendents merit our earnest appreciation. We are sorry that our list is not complete.

#### Sunday School Superintendents:

Jesse Hamilton . . . . .	1885	Mrs. J. E. Newton . . .	1923-1929
Dr. J. W. Wingender	1890-1897	Mrs. Arthur Olson . . .	1929-1931
J. B. Jones . . . . .	1908-1909	Mrs. Charles Dowling	1931-1938
A. E. Sather . . . . .	1911-1912	Mrs. Alfred Cowles . .	1938-1942
Edward Hocking . . .	1912-1915	Wallace Marsh . . . . .	1942-1944
J. W. Burkholder . . .	1915-1917	Harold Gifford . . . . .	1944-1945
Miss Charlotte Olds .	1917-1920	Mrs. Robert Varnum .	1945-1950
M. S. Tracy . . . . .	1920	Rev. Lloyd Asp . . . . .	1950-1951
N. O. Varnum . . . . .	1920-1923	George Agema . . . . .	1951

## The Cradle Roll

The Cradle Roll superintendents have tried to call on new mothers whenever possible. Otherwise they have sent cards and greetings. Mrs. Frank Coit used to be Cradle Roll superintendent before 1937 when the responsibility was taken over by Mrs. Lloyd Windahl. She was followed by Mrs. Lyle Wilcox who served for eleven years, from 1938 to 1949. Mrs. Robert Bauer, the former Ruby Engdahl, is the present Cradle Roll Superintendent.

## The Primary Department

The Primary Department of the Sunday School is as important to Christian education as a foundation to a house. Moral training should start early. A careful list of babies on the Cradle Roll is kept and as these children reach nursery school age they are invited to come to Sunday School. One of the most delightful treats of the year has always been to hear these little tots sing and recite at Christmas time and other special occasions.



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There are no records of the years for Primary Superintendents. Mrs. Maude Ryan is the first that people in Sunday School work can recollect. Along about the time Reverend R. L. Jamieson was here Mrs. Curtis Solsvig, Sr., became Primary Superintendent. She was followed by Mrs. John Bush who served for three years. Miss Frances Simonson then became superintendent, and was married during her term of office. Mrs. Douglas Marks, the minister's wife was next. At that time the green cottage given to the church by Miss Ella Richardson was used for the Primary and Nursery School age children. Mrs. Otis Payson served as Primary Superintendent for the twelve (12) years between 1939 and 1951, which represents a long term of loving service to Christian ideals. Mrs. Marion Poulton is the present Primary Superintendent.

### **Youth Fellowship**

The "teen-age" group of young people has always had special meetings on Sunday evenings. At first this organization was known as "The Epworth League" but of late years the name has been changed to "Methodist Youth Fellowship". The young people have held meetings which have combined training in Christian leadership with the best in recreation.

During the time Reverend Douglas Marks was here the young people of Hudson churches combined to form "The University of Life", a youth group which was well attended between 1937 and 1940. The membership for 1938 included one hundred twenty-two young people. There were thirty-nine from the Presbyterian Church, thirty-four from the Methodist, twelve from the Baptist, sixteen from the Episcopal Church and twenty-one from the Lutheran Church. The average attendance was eighty-three. <sup>16</sup>

### **Teachers Training**

Beginning with the fall of 1940 a Teachers College for Sunday School teachers has been conducted in this vicinity. It is known as the St. Croix Valley School of Religion and has met once a week for a six-weeks term each year. Denominations cooperating have been the Methodist, Congregational, Presbyterian, Baptist, Evangelical, Federated, Episcopal, and Reformed from the following towns: Baldwin, Stillwater, Hudson, River Falls, New Richmond, Bayport, Afton and Roberts.

The school has usually met at Hudson or Stillwater.

### **Choir**

There has been some heavenly music in the Hudson Methodist Church. All of us can remember many times during Sunday services and special occasions when we were enraptured and uplifted by the beauty of song. We have been fortunate in having people in the choir who have excellent voices and a fine knowledge of music.

Mrs. Arthur Olson directed the choir from 1919 to 1925 when Reverend J. T. Kneen became director. After three years Reverend Kneen went on to another church and Mrs. Arthur Olson assumed

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the work of director again. She served about seven years more at that time. Mrs. George Bahneman directed the choir for the next twelve years until 1947 when the present director Mr. M. F. Poulton came.

For the last four years all the Protestant churches of Hudson have combined their best musical talent to produce sacred cantatas at Easter time. The Seven Last Words of Christ was presented at the Presbyterian Church in 1948, 1949 and 1950 under the direction of M. F. Poulton.

For 1951 the choir directors and ministers worked up a sacred cantata representing each day of Holy Week. They chose scripture selections and fitted music to them. Where it was not possible to find the right music, choral readings were used.

There have been many fine soloists in our choir. Mr. John Bohrer who passed away Dec. 7, 1943 at the age of 90, had an excellent tenor voice and it has been said of him that he had a wonderful knowledge of music.

Mrs. Arthur Olson, who passed away in 1951 sang beautifully in a clear soprano.

A few years ago Mr. Orin Hickcox, tenor, and Mr. Otto Jacobs, bass, Mr. John W. Burkholder, bass, and Mrs. George Bahneman, who before her marriage was Miss Laura Brandenburg, all did considerable fine solo work.

There was a quartet in the church for some time composed of Mrs. Charles Dowling, alto, Mrs. Arthur Olson, soprano, John Bohrer, tenor, and John W. Burkholder, bass.

Mrs. Dowling, who sang in the choir for many years says of this quartet, "in algebraic terms" we dubbed ourselves D.O.B. <sup>2</sup>

Of choir work in general Mrs. Dowling has remarked "Things did get kind of serious once in a while, but on the whole, we had a lot of good times. You can't sing all the time and when we rested, we laughed and joked. The choir used to be fun when Mr. Bohrer was there because he used to entertain us so capably with stories and reminiscences".

Mrs. Bahneman says that occasionally there has been a youth choir but it has usually been found more practical and artistic to work the young voices in with the older ones.

For a time around 1946, a lovable trio of girls entertained us on special occasions. These sweet singers were Miss Barbara Egbert, Miss Margaret Wilcox and Miss Lois Wilcox.

In recent years we have intensely enjoyed the exquisite solos and duets given for us by Mrs. M. F. Poulton and Miss Emma Engebretson, sopranos. Both Mrs. Poulton and Miss Engebretson have voices of rare beauty and they both interpret music with warm sympathy and deep understanding.

The Methodist Church of Hudson is indeed fortunate to have two such outstanding singers at the present time.

During the last three or four years there has been other excellent solo work and solo parts in chorus done by the following:

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Mrs. George Bahneman, alto; Miss Margaret Wilcox, soprano; Miss Barbara Egbert, alto; Miss Yvonne Martin, soprano; Mrs. Norma Golden Larson, soprano; Mrs. Curtis Solsvig, Jr., soprano; Reverend A. Lloyd Asp, tenor; Wendell Petersen, bass; Stephen Bush, tenor; Judge Robert Varnum, bass.

#### CHOIR OF 1951

*Sopranos*—Mrs. Maxine Olson Hermanson, Miss Helien Larson, Miss Ruth Partridge, Miss Patty Fleming, Mrs. Maureen Jaeger, Mrs. Norma Golden Larson, Miss Yvonne Martin, Miss Emma Engebretson, Mrs. Beverly Torgerson.

*Altos*—Mrs. George Carver, Miss Barbara Egbert, Miss Eleanor Varnum, Mrs. Laura Bahneman, Miss Harriet Gilbert.

*Tenors*—Reverend A. Lloyd Asp, Mr. L. F. Jaeger, Mr. Robert Bauer, Mr. Lyle Udell (sang until February, 1951).

*Bass*—Judge Robert Varnum, Mr. David Wilcox, Mr. Gordon Wilcox, Mr. Wendell Petersen, Mr. Frank Wright, Mr. Ronald Payson.

Since Reverend A. Lloyd Asp came a new Hammond electric organ was purchased and used for the first time on the Sunday before Christmas 1947. The new organ has added much to our enjoyment of Divine Services.

Before 1922 Miss Edith Dowling was the pianist. Miss Amy Christopherson played up until the time of her last illness when Reverend Evans was here.

Mrs. Chester Tracy, Mrs. Lloyd Windahl, Miss Harriet Gilbert and Mrs. Maxine Olson Hermanson have all been our pianists at various times.

Miss Vivian Egbert who later became Mrs. J. T. Johnston was pianist from that time on and anticipated the arrival of the new organ by going to Minneapolis and taking special organ lessons at MacPhail School of Music. Mrs. Johnston played until she and her husband moved away in 1949. Since that time Mrs. Oscar Sandberg has been our organist.

#### "The Ladies"

The Ladies Aid grew up with the church. But some of the younger women did not like to go to their meetings, so Mrs. Fisher, wife of the Rev. John Fisher started what was known as the Tuesday Circle, about the year 1920. No exact date can be found just when these young ladies grew up and attended the regular Ladies Aid Society, but in 1929 the name for the societies combined was officially "Ladies Aid".

In 1937 the "Ladies Aid" accomplished a big project. Carpeting and pads for beneath it were bought for the Sanctuary at a cost of \$289.50.

On September 11, 1940 Reverend George Carver organized The Woman's Society of Christian Service of Hudson.

During the first three meetings one hundred and four women joined this organization.



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The Woman's Society of Christian Service has continued to be a source of strength to the Hudson Methodist Church. The society has not only given financial support to the church, but it has been a source of inspiration, education and recreation to the women who have attended. A definite course of Christian education has been followed to give purpose and direction to the meetings. There has always been a festive social hour afterward. All the members agree that the friendliness and fun of the W.S.C.S. is worth far more than the work involved.

And there has been plenty of work! There have been special cleaning days when the "House of the Lord" was polished and purified in readiness for Holy Week or Christmas. There have been suppers and sales and "special occasion" banquets when the women did the work.

It would be amazing to figure up the number of dishtowels, holders, aprons, etc., that have been sold by the "Ladies" in their years of service through the various "Circles".

Rummage sales have been a good source of income, too, and many a perfectly good coat or slightly dated dress has found a delighted new owner through the "Society".

The big money raising projects have usually been church suppers. This might be a good place to say that it was a great day in the commissary department when the new commercial type electric ranges were installed in 1949 at a cost of \$791.00.

Since the beginning, the best cooks among the ladies have given their time and effort toward turning out wonderful food. The dining room staff has been swift and efficient in serving as well as artistic in decorating the tables.

The Woman's Society Record gives a list of the amounts of food necessary for the annual supper of 1940.

#### "ANNUAL SUPPER LIST FOR 1940"

Chickens, 47 to 50, Potatoes  $2\frac{1}{2}$  bu., Coffee 9 lbs., Flour 50 lbs., Baking Powder—2 large cans of Royal, Good Cabbage  $1\frac{1}{2}$  bu., Salad Dressing 8 quarts, Whipping Cream for salad 2 quarts, Green Peppers 1 dozen, White Onions 5c, Carrots 4 bunches, String Beans, 70 cans, Cream for Coffee and Chicken 9 quarts, Milk 4 gallons, Cranberry Relish—20 receipes, Loaf Sugar 8 2-lb. boxes, Cheese 10 lbs., Butter 25 lbs., Lard 4 lbs., Bread, 18 dark and 14 white, Pies 64, Eggs 1 dozen, Salt 10c, Pepper—1 box white.

If rutabagas are served  $2\frac{1}{2}$  bu. If cake-ice cream, 20 cakes that cut 24 pieces; 50 bricks ice cream cut in 7 pieces. <sup>13</sup>

The position of Woman's Society President requires imagination, diplomacy, a sense of humour, executive ability, and a wonderful enthusiasm for hard work.

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Following is a list of the women who have so capably filled that office since 1926.

Mrs. N. O. Varnum ..1926-1928	Mrs. Roy Means .....1933-1934
Mrs. W. R. Kirk ....1928-1929	Mrs. Olaf Windahl ..1934-1935
Mrs. N. O. Varnum ..1929-1930	Mrs. S. K. Simonson 1939-1940
Mrs. Frank Anderson 1930-1931	Mrs. Arthur Kelly ...1940-1946
Mrs. Henry Johnson .1931-1932	Mrs. Earl Wilcox ....1946-1951
Mrs. Harry Evans ...1932-1933	Mrs. Nell Blackwelder 1951

## **Missionary**

As far back as anyone can remember there has been an active Missionary Society in the Hudson Methodist Church. Most Methodist Churches merged their missionary societies and W.S.C.S. groups in 1940 as the new W.S.C.S. was to be an organization that would include all lesser organizations. The Hudson Methodist women, however, wanted to keep their missionary society at that time. The missionary group was not joined with the W.S.C.S. until 1950.

Each year since 1946 two members of our W.S.C.S. have attended the Methodist Campus School at Frontenac, Minn., which has given very worthwhile courses in general leadership, missionary study and Bible study. All the women who have gone to Frontenac for this short course have come back with enthusiasm and inspiration to give to others.

## **Military Service**

There is no record of the men who went away to fight earlier wars, but we know that there were twenty-four stars, five of them gold stars, in the service flag for World War I. The gold stars represented the supreme sacrifice given by United States Infantrymen Irving Dickey, who fell in France; Captain Roger Goss who died in a United States Army Camp, Lee V. Kirkpatrick, a member of the Marine Band, who also died in a United States Army camp; Lieutenant Malcolm J. McMaster, Coast Artillery, who died in the Phillipines and his brother, Infantry Sergeant Charles K. McMaster who gave his life in France.

The Service Flag of the World War II has stars for sixty-three young men and women. The two gold stars symbolize the lives of Private Gerald Cowles who was killed in action with the United States Marines on Okinawa and First Lieutenant James Gullickson, who died in an airplane crash at St. Nazaire, France.

We love and honor these young men who died in the defense of their country. Our memory of them will be forever young.

At the present writing (Nov. 1, 1951) there are seven of our boys in the Armed Services, three of them from one family. They are Sergeant Howard Prescott; Corporal James S. Prescott; Naval Recruit Rodger Prescott; Private First-class David A. Julian; Private First Class Lowell Dean Windahl, Private Kenneth Payson, and S/Sgt. Ward E. Stevenson.

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## The Depression Years

In spite of serious economic conditions the Church weathered the financial depression fairly well. Regular attendance at the services helped to remedy the financial end, according to records. <sup>17</sup>

Reverend O. F. Voll told an amusing anecdote of those years at the 75th Anniversary Homecoming, 1950. He said that when the Ladies Aid cooked chickens for the church suppers when he was there, there was always an advance lunch of chicken liver sandwiches for the cooks and waitresses and the preacher.

## Memorials

The memorials which are listed have been given in memory of loved ones by relatives and friends.

The electric light chandeliers in the sanctuary were given in loving memory of Mrs. J. W. Bohrer, by her husband Mr. John W. Bohrer and her son, Mr. Harry N. Bohrer.

Mr. Lew Coit gave the choir vestments and screen in memory of his grandmother, Mrs. Garrison Greene.

The illuminated Cross above and back of the choir loft was given as a memorial for Mrs. Marshall (Hickcox) Hugdahl, by her husband Mr. Marshall Hugdahl.

A baptismal font was presented to the church by Miss Doris Engdahl and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bauer in loving memory of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Engdahl.

The choir chairs were given as a memorial for Mrs. Cleve Sutherland by her children, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Sutherland, Dr. and Mrs. Avery Sutherland and Miss Marguerite Sutherland.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Dowling gave the collection plates as a memorial for Mr. Willis Dowling, brother of Mr. Charles Dowling.

A communion service was given in memoriam for Mr. Harry Gilbert, by his wife Mrs. Harry Gilbert.

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Cowles gave the new flags, the American and Christian, in memoriam for their son, Gerald Cowles, who gave his life in the service of his country. (World War 2).

The electric chandeliers in the church parlors were given as a memorial for Mr. J. W. Bohrer by his son and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Harry N. Bohrer.

A one thousand dollar gift of money received from Mrs. Peyton Goss was to be used toward building a memorial room as a memorial to Mrs. Carrie Goss. There was also included a portrait of Mrs. Goss and a plaque to be placed in the room when built.

The hymnals throughout the church are memorials given by relatives and friends in memory of loved ones.

Many a Sunday morning worship service has been brightened by lovely flowers placed on the altar rail given by a relative or friend in memory of some loved one.

There have been gifts of money given from time to time.



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There was a memorial gift given by friends of Mrs. Louis Dedrick, which was sent to the Morrow Home in her memory.

A memorial gift was received from Mrs. O. C. Gullickson in memory of her husband Mr. O. C. Gullickson and her son James Gullickson who gave his life in the service of his country (World War 2). The gift was used to repair sanctuary windows and their names were inscribed in two hymnals.

The Woman's Society of Christian Service gave a memorial gift for World Service as a memorial to Mrs. Josephine Crandall.

The friends of Mr. J. M. Engebretson gave a memorial gift for Missions.

A memorial gift for missions was given by friends of Mrs. Cleve Sutherland.

There was a memorial gift from Mrs. O. C. Gullickson given for her husband and son for the repair fund.

Miss Edith Baskin gave a memorial gift in loving memory of her mother Mrs. John Baskin.

A gift for missions was given by Mrs. Olaf Windahl in memory of her husband, Mr. Olaf Windahl.

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These gifts to be listed were not designated for any certain memorial, so were placed in a memorial fund, which has now been used to purchase dining room chairs.

A memorial gift was given by Mr. and Mrs. John Bush for Mr. J. J. Waldie, the father of Mrs. Bush.

The friends of Mrs. Charles Christopherson gave a gift in loving memory of her.

A memorial gift was given by the friends of Mr. T. S. Baker.

Miss Ethel Cuddebach and Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Jylland gave a memorial gift in living memory of their mother, Mrs. H. C. Cuddebach.

A memorial gift was given by the friends of Mrs. H. C. Cuddebach.

The friends of Mrs. T. S. Baker gave a gift as a memorial to her.

A memorial gift received from Mrs. O. C. Gullickson was given in memory of her husband, Mr. Gullickson, and son James Gullickson.

The friends of Mrs. Sarah Udell gave a memorial gift in her memory.

A memorial gift was given by the friends of Mrs. Arthur Olson.

The friends of Mr. Lyle Udell gave a memorial gift in his memory.

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## ORGAN FUND

This is a list of memorials which were given to the organ fund by relatives and friends in memory of loved ones.

A gift was given by Mrs. John Baer and her son Lyle Baer, in loving memory of Mr. John Baer.

There was a gift given in loving memory of Mr. Olaf Windahl by his wife Mrs. Olaf Windahl.

A memorial gift for Mr. Olaf Windahl was given by his children Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Windahl and Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth Brandt and his wife Mrs. Olaf Windahl.

The circle of which Mrs. Frank Engdahl was a member gave a gift in her memory.

There was a memorial gift given by the friends of John Baer.

The friends of Charles Christopherson gave a gift in memoriam.

There was a memorial gift given by friends of Mrs. John Brunelle.

The family of Mr. C. A. Fredrickson gave a gift as a memorial to their father.

There was a gift given in loving memory of George Wright by his children, Frank Wright, Miss Helen Wright, Mrs. Ruth McCollum and Mrs. Dorothy Oberdorfer.

Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Wilcox gave a gift in memoriam for Mrs. Wilcox's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur McMaster.

A memorial gift was given by Mr. and Mrs. David Wilcox for Mr. A. McMaster, the grandfather of Mr. Wilcox.

The chimes for the organ were given by Mrs. F. R. Coit in loving memory of her husband Mr. Frank R. Coit.

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## CHOIR

This is a list of memorials given to the choir in memory of loved ones.

The Woman's Society of Christian Service gave a gift for the choir in loving memory of Mr. J. W. Bohrer for his many years of faithful service.

A memorial gift was given by the family of John Larsen.

Mrs. Otto Jacobs gave a gift to the choir as a memorial to her husband, Otto Jacobs.

A memorial gift for Mrs. Charles Christopherson was given by her Sunday School class.

Mrs. Olaf Windahl gave a memorial gift to the choir in memory of her husband Olaf Windahl.

There was a memorial gift from Mrs. R. R. Golden in memoriam for her husband, Mr. R. R. Golden.

Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Nelson gave a gift to the choir in memory of Mrs. M. C. Balsom.

There was a memorial gift presented to the choir in loving memory of Mr. Fred Henstra.

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## **Tribute to Departed Friends**

There's is a finished life,  
With work well done  
For the cross is lifted  
And their cross is won.

## **Advance**

Following World War II Methodists throughout the world sponsored the "Crusade for Christ" movement for rehabilitating and rebuilding. This was a four-year project. The Hudson Church reached the quota and topped it by a substantial sum.

Another four-year project followed which is still in progress. This movement is called "Advance for Christ" and has four goals:

Increased Giving  
Recruiting workers for full time  
Christian Service  
Education and Increased Study  
Membership

In 1948 this church again sponsored preaching missions, the first since 1934 when Dr. Myron Taylor held evangelistic tent meetings in Hudson on the grounds where the Post Office now stands.

Dr. Wesley David Soper of Beloit College came to us for a preaching mission in the fall of 1948 and the fall of 1949. Dr. Soper is an outstanding speaker for many reasons but especially for his amazing memory. We all enjoyed hearing him repeat long passages from the Bible that he had learned "by heart".

In the fall of 1950 a week of very inspiring meetings were held with Dr. Kermit Long of Chicago as guest speaker. He spoke "in parables" and taught by telling stories. Dr. Long also returned for a week in the fall of 1951 and gave a series of fine sermons that will be long remembered. One evening was devoted to young people especially and for this he selected a very apt sermon title "How to Get a Thrill Out of Life".

## **Union**

In May, 1939, a great event took place in Methodism. The three denominations known as the Methodist Episcopal Church, the Methodist Protestant Church and the Methodist Episcopal Church South merged to become the Methodist Church. The uniting conference was held at a large convention hall in Kansas City and the theme song of Methodism has become.

"We are not divided  
All one body we"

(Onward Christian Soldiers)

At the time the unification took place the newly formed Methodist Church had a membership of well over eight million people.



The people who went through the Hudson Methodist Church Books to get the Material for this story have become convinced that the present time is a great period in the Church. There is an awakening interest in religion as shown by the records. The Hudson Methodist Church is alive and well and ready to go on to a great tomorrow.

## List of Ministers Down Through the Years

Rev. Lemuel Nobles .....	1847-1851 (probably irregular)
	Sent out from Stillwater Mission.
Rev. G. W. Richardson .....	1851-1852
Rev. George Chester .....	1852
Rev. Norris Hobert .....	1853-1854
Rev. M. Lewis .....	1855
Rev. S. D. Sterrett .....	1855
Rev. M. Gossard .....	1856
Rev. E. R. Lathrop .....	1857
Rev. J. O. Rich .....	1858
Rev. William Hamilton .....	1858
Rev. A. J. Nelson .....	1859
Rev. A. D. Cunningham .....	1859-1860
Rev. T. M. Fullerton .....	1860-1861
Rev. G. W. Richardson .....	1861
Rev. J. H. Crofoot .....	1862
Rev. I. E. Springer .....	1862-1863
Rev. A. B. Smith .....	1863-1865
Rev. J. S. Akers .....	1865-1866
Rev. E. S. Havens .....	1866-1868
Rev. H. J. Richardson .....	1869-1871
Rev. S. W. Homer .....	1871-1872
Rev. J. D. Tull .....	1874-1875
Rev. H. Goodsell .....	1876
Rev. Dexter .....	1877
Rev. J. S. Thompson .....	1878-1880
Rev. M. Benson .....	1881
Rev. B. E. Wheeler .....	1882-1884
Rev. S. W. Tronsdale .....	1885-1887
Rev. J. Tresidder .....	1889-1891
Rev. W. M. Martin .....	1891-1895
Rev. A. M. Pilcher .....	1895-1897
Rev. J. S. Parker .....	1897-1899
Rev. J. A. Lumley .....	1900-1903
Rev. T. S. Snodgrass .....	1904-1905
Rev. Guy W. Campbell .....	1905-1908
Rev. Haight .....	1908-1909
Rev. A. D. Moore .....	1909-1910
Rev. John Fisher .....	1910-1925

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Rev. J. T. Kneen .....	1925-1929
Rev. Harry Evans .....	1929-1932
Rev. R. L. Jamieson .....	1932-1934
Rev. O. T. Voll .....	1934-1937
Rev. D. K. Marks .....	1937-1940
Rev. George Carver .....	1940-1943
Rev. J. T. Agema .....	1943-1946
Rev. A. L. Asp .....	1946

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7. The Hudson City Times.
8. The Hudson Star & Times.
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10. Memoirs of Mr. John Bohrer.
11. Loose Letter from Quarterly Conference Record Book, beginning 1883.
12. Record Books of Methodist Ladies Aid Society.
13. Record Books of Women's Society of Christian Service.
14. Attendance Records of the Hudson Methodist Sunday School.
15. The Hudson Star Observer.
16. Pastor's Record Book.
17. Official Board Records of Hudson Methodist Church.
18. Financial Secretary Records of Mrs. Egbert.
19. Choir Records.

